



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 7281

LCO No. 4793



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF DENTAL THERAPY BY
LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENISTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "General supervision of a licensed dentist" has the same meaning
4 as provided in section 20-126*l* of the general statutes;

5 (2) "Public health facility" has the same meaning as provided in
6 section 20-126*l* of the general statutes;

7 (3) The "practice of dental therapy" means the performance of
8 educational, preventive and therapeutic services including: (A)
9 Identification of oral and systemic conditions requiring evaluation or
10 treatment by dentists, physicians or other healthcare providers and
11 referrals to such healthcare providers; (B) diagnosis and treatment of
12 oral diseases and conditions within the dental therapist scope of
13 practice; (C) comprehensive charting of the oral cavity; (D) oral health
14 instruction and disease prevention education, including nutritional

15 counseling and dietary analysis; (E) dispensation and oral
16 administration or topical application of nonnarcotic analgesics, anti-
17 inflammatory and antibiotic medications as prescribed by a licensed
18 health care provider, with the exception of schedule II, III or IV
19 controlled substances; (F) application of topical preventive or
20 prophylactic agents, including fluoride, fluoride varnish, antimicrobial
21 agents and pit and fissure sealants; (G) pulp vitality testing; (H)
22 application of desensitizing medication or resin; (I) interim therapeutic
23 restorations; (J) fabrication of athletic mouth guards; (K) periodontal
24 dressing changes; (L) administration of local anesthetic pursuant to
25 subsection (d) of section 20-126l of the general statutes; (M) simple
26 extraction of erupted primary teeth; (N) nonsurgical extraction of
27 periodontally diseased permanent teeth with grade three or higher
28 tooth mobility, with the exception of an extraction when a tooth is
29 unerupted, impacted, fractured or needs to be sectioned for removal;
30 (O) emergency palliative treatment of dental pain, limited to the
31 procedures listed in this subdivision; (P) preparation and placement of
32 direct restoration in primary and permanent teeth, that does not
33 require the fabrication of crowns, bridges, veneers or dentures; (Q)
34 fabrication and placement of single-tooth temporary crowns; (R)
35 administration of nitrous oxide; (S) preparation and placement of
36 preformed crowns on primary teeth; (T) indirect and direct pulp
37 capping on permanent teeth; (U) indirect pulp capping on primary
38 teeth; (V) suture removal; (W) minor adjustments and repairs on
39 removable prostheses; (X) placement and removal of space
40 maintainers; and (Y) recementing permanent crowns.

41 (b) No person shall engage in the practice of dental therapy unless
42 such person (1) is a dental hygienist licensed under chapter 379a of the
43 general statutes, (2) has a certificate of graduation from a dental
44 therapy program (A) accredited for dental therapy by the Commission
45 on Dental Accreditation, or such other national professional
46 accrediting body as may be recognized by the Department of Public
47 Health, and (B) offered by an institution of higher education, and (3)
48 practices in a public health facility under the general supervision of a

49 licensed dentist pursuant to a collaborative agreement with such
50 dentist or in a dental care health professional shortage area as
51 designated by the federal Health Resources and Services
52 Administration.

53 (c) A collaborative agreement between a dentist and a dental
54 hygienist engaging in the practice of dental therapy may allow such
55 dental hygienist to directly supervise not more than two dental
56 assistants, expanded function dental assistants or dental hygienists.
57 Nothing in this section shall require a dentist to enter into a
58 collaborative agreement with a dental hygienist.

59 (d) Each certified dental hygienist engaging in the practice of dental
60 therapy and applying for a renewal of such certification shall earn a
61 minimum of six hours of continuing education within the preceding
62 certification period related to the practice of dental therapy in addition
63 to satisfying the continuing education requirements of section 20-126
64 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To allow dental hygienists to become certified in dental therapy and engage in the practice of dental therapy for the purpose of increasing access to dental care.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]